



Waterville Police Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Waterville Police Department, working in conjunction with a number of central Maine law enforcement partners, is pleased to announce the arrests late last week of two individuals and the seizure of a large quantity of cocaine.

Eric Prevost, 29 and Tabitha Waddell, 31, both of 323 Riverside Drive in Augusta, were taken into custody in the parking lot of the Rite-Aid pharmacy on Hospital Street in Augusta on October 9th at approximately 11:45 PM. The arrests were made as the result of an investigation that was large-scale in terms of the number of law enforcement officers involved - members of the Waterville, Fairfield and Augusta Police Departments, Somerset and Kennebec Sheriff's Offices, MDEA, State Police, and the Kennebec County District Attorney's Office all assisted by offering intelligence and / or manpower.

The investigation, which led officers to secure search warrants for Prevost and Waddell as well as their vehicle and residence, pointed to the two defendants being in possession of a large amount of cocaine. As information was being gathered and affidavits for the necessary search warrants were being prepared by Waterville Detective Lincoln Ryder - with supporting information provided by Somerset County Sheriffs Office, Kennebec County Sheriffs Office, and the Fairfield Police, Prevost and Waddell's residence and vehicle were surveilled by MDEA agents and officers from the Augusta Police Department and State Police. When the surveilling officers observed Prevost and Waddell leave their residence, they pulled the vehicle over at the Rite-Aid. A search of the vehicle resulted in the location and seizure of approximately 1.1 pounds of powdered cocaine with an estimated street value of \$50,000, and over \$1,000 in cash. A subsequent search of Prevost and Waddell's residence on Riverside Drive resulted in the location and seizure of a digital scale with cocaine residue, where officers believe the cocaine was processed and packaged for sale, as well as other items of drug paraphernalia.

Prevost and Waddell were both charged with one count of Aggravated Trafficking in Schedule W Drugs (Cocaine), which is a Class A Felony. Class A Felonies are punishable by up to 30 years in prison and fines of up to \$50,000. Both subjects

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are scheduled to appear in the Kennebec County Superior Court on December 8, 2009. After booking and processing, both Prevost and Waddell were transported to the Kennebec County Jail. Waddell, who has no criminal history, has since bailed. Prevost, who has a number of criminal convictions including a felony conviction for Burglary, is currently being held in lieu of \$100,000 cash bail.

Chief Joseph Massey credits his drug investigators, Detective Lincoln Ryder and Officer Duane Cloutier, as well as a large number of officers who rendered assistance from other area agencies. "This case is a prime example," Massey said, "that drugs and drug dealers are not concerned with municipal boundaries and legal jurisdictions. If we had allowed the fact that these two, who were living in Augusta and dealing their cocaine in Waterville to interfere in our ability to bring this case to a successful conclusion, none of the agencies involved would have been doing a service to the public. Luckily, the high level of cooperation and talent present in each of the agencies represented in the investigation resulted in the largest seizure of cocaine in the Kennebec County area in recent memory." Chief Massey again stressed that the individual officers, detectives, and supervisors who were on the street gathering evidence and conducting surveillance are the ones who made the case, and who deserve the real credit. "Residents of Somerset and Kennebec Counties, including those who live in Fairfield, Waterville, and Augusta, should be proud of these officers and what they have achieved. They are a credit to their profession and are dedicated to keeping these dangerous drugs off our streets."